

ment, voluntary service for the Department of Agriculture for such purpose if the service:

- (1) is to be without compensation; and
- (2) will not be used to displace any employee of the Department of Agriculture including the local, county, and State committees established under section 590h(b) of title 16.

**(c) Federal employee status**

Any individual who provides voluntary service under this section shall not be considered a Federal employee, except for purposes of chapter 81 of title 5 (relating to compensation for injury), and sections 2671 through 2680 of title 28 (relating to tort claims).

(Pub. L. 97-98, title XV, §1526, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1337.)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective Dec. 22, 1981, see section 1801 of Pub. L. 97-98, set out as a note under section 4301 of this title.

**AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**

Section 1527 of Pub. L. 97-98 provided that: "There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this subtitle [enacting this section], such sums to remain available until expended."

**SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS**

This section is referred to in section 2272a of this title.

**§ 2272a. Funds for incidental expenses and promotional items relating to volunteers**

On and after August 6, 1996, funds appropriated to the Department of Agriculture may be used for incidental expenses such as transportation, uniforms, lodging, and subsistence for volunteers serving under the authority of section 2272 of this title, when such volunteers are engaged in the work of the United States Department of Agriculture; and for promotional items of nominal value relating to the United States Department of Agriculture Volunteer Programs.

(Pub. L. 104-180, title VII, §729, Aug. 6, 1996, 110 Stat. 1600.)

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 2272a, Pub. L. 102-142, title VII, §739, Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 915, authorized use of funds for incidental expenses and promotional items relating to volunteers on and after Oct. 28, 1991, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 104-127, title III, §336(f)(2), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1007.

**§ 2273. Local search and rescue operations**

The Secretary of Agriculture may assist, through the use of Soil Conservation Service personnel, vehicles, communication equipment, and other equipment or materials available to the Secretary, in local search and rescue operations when requested by responsible local public authorities. Such assistance may be provided in emergencies caused by tornadoes, fires, floods, snowstorms, earthquakes, and similar disasters.

(Pub. L. 97-98, title XV, §1550, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1344.)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective Dec. 22, 1981, see section 1801 of Pub. L. 97-98, set out as a note under section 4301 of this title.

**§ 2274. Firearm authority of employees engaged in animal quarantine enforcement**

Any employee of the United States Department of Agriculture designated by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Attorney General of the United States may carry a firearm and use a firearm when necessary for self-protection, in accordance with rules and regulations issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Attorney General of the United States, while such employee is engaged in the performance of the employee's official duties to (1) carry out any law or regulation related to the control, eradication, or prevention of the introduction or dissemination of communicable disease of livestock or poultry into the United States or (2) perform any duty related to such disease control, eradication, or prevention, subject to the direction of the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 97-312, §1, Oct. 14, 1982, 96 Stat. 1461.)

**§ 2275. Repealed. Pub. L. 101-624, title XV, § 1572(3), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3702**

Section, Pub. L. 99-198, title XI, §1151, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1497, provided for trade consultation between the Foreign Agricultural Service and other Federal agencies. See section 5674 of this title.

**§ 2276. Confidentiality of information**

**(a) Authorized disclosure**

In the case of information furnished under a provision of law referred to in subsection (d) of this section, neither the Secretary of Agriculture, any other officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture or agency thereof, nor any other person may—

- (1) use such information for a purpose other than the development or reporting of aggregate data in a manner such that the identity of the person who supplied such information is not discernible and is not material to the intended uses of such information; or
- (2) disclose such information to the public, unless such information has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow the identification of the person who supplied particular information.

**(b) Duty of Secretary; immunity from disclosure; necessary consent**

(1) In carrying out a provision of law referred to in subsection (d) of this section, no department, agency, officer, or employee of the Federal Government, other than the Secretary of Agriculture, shall require a person to furnish a copy of statistical information provided to the Department of Agriculture.

(2) A copy of such information—

- (A) shall be immune from mandatory disclosure of any type, including legal process; and
- (B) shall not, without the consent of such person, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or other judicial or administrative proceeding.

**(c) Violations; penalties**

Any person who shall publish, cause to be published, or otherwise publicly release information